India development relief fund

*679. SHRIK. RAMA MOHANA RAO :Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the US State Department has asked the Justice Department to look into the irregularities that are taking place in the India Development Relief Fund:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the funds received under the India Development Relief Fund since its inception, year-wise; and

(d) the details of utilisation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVU AY SINGH): (a) to (d) There is no information with the Government to suggest that the U.S. State Department has asked the Justice Department to look into irregularities concerning the India Development Relief Fund (EDRF). It is not the practice for the U.S. Department of Justice to make public any cases that may be under investigation.

2. The Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) Unit of the Foreigners Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is the designated authority for monitoring the inflow of foreign funds, have made available details of disbursements in India by IDRF for the last two years, 2000-01 and 2001-02, when Rs. 21,25,000 and Rs. 94,45,000, respectively, were received by the following Indian non-Governmental organisations: Sewa International, Delhi; Anoopam Mission, Gujarat; Bharatiya Kushtha Nivarak Sangh, Chhattisgarh; Keshava Seva Samiti, Andhra Pradesh; Manav Kalyan Trust, Gujarat; Manglam, Uttar Pradesh; Saath Charitable Trust, Gujarat; Sewa Bharti Gandhi Ashram, Madhya Pradesh; Sewa-in Action, Kamataka; Social Action for Rural Tribal Inhabitants, India; Sri Aurobindo Education Society, Delhi; Swami Vivekananda Rural Development Society, Tamil Nadu and Yogoda Satsanga Society of India, West Bengal.

3. The purpose of transfer of funds by EDRF to Indian NGOs included relief and rehabilitation of victims of natural calamities, construction of schools and hostels for poor students, non-formal education projects, holding of health and immunisation camps, construction of dispensaries and hospitals, grant of scholarship and welfare of the physically and mentally challenged.